BOROUGH OF FALMOUTH

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

F. E. WHITMAN, B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

AND

Sanitary Inspector

A. REY, F.S.I., M.S.I.A.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st December, 1948

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948

The Mayor of Falmouth (Alderman W. A. Lamb).
Chairman : Councillor E. W. Hearley.

Aldermen A. Napier.
H. A. Rider.
K. H. Williams.

Councillors A. V. Baker.
B. J. E. Belcher.
V. A. S. Bone.
W. E. Cavill.
T. H. Elkington.
E. M. Frost.
E. E. Howard.
T. L. Morris.
H. B. Nation.
A. E. Osberg.
T. C. Williams.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :
V. E. Whitman, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :
A. Hey, F.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :
G. Barnard.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :
Miss C. Truscott, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Miss M. Lakeman, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerks :
D. W. Muller.
Miss L. M. Dawe

BOROUGH OF FALMOUH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year Ending 31st December, 1948

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Falmouth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

The general health of the Borough remained good throughout the year. There was a slight rise in the incidence of measles in November and December, but otherwise there was nothing that could be called an epidemic.

The crude birth rate at 15.6 per 1,000 of population was low, compared with that for the whole of England and Wales, which was 17.9. The crude death rate on the other hand was 12.9, which was considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales, which was 10.8. It must be remembered, however, that the comparison of crude rates was abandoned many years ago, on account of the errors involved. We have been forced to return to it in recent years, as, in the absence of a census, we have no means of ascertaining the numbers of persons in the various age groups from which standardised rates could be calculated. The crude figures suggest that the number of people who have come to spend their retirement in Falmouth is so large as to swell to a disproportionate size the older age group. It is obvious that this group contributes nothing to the birth rate and considerably to the death rate.

The infant mortality rate, which is a fair index of the sanitary condition of a town, was 26.4 per thousand live births, as compared with 34 for the whole of England and Wales.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	1,893
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1948	17,040
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1931	2,916
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	4,460
Rateable Value, 1948	£162,074
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£651 7 5.3
Rainfall during 1948	42.45 ins.
Bright Sunshine during 1948	1,677 hrs.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Live Births	132	133	265

Birth Rate, per thousand of the estimated population :—
Falmouth, 15.6. England and Wales, 17.9.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Still Births	5	8	13

Still Birth Rate, per thousand births, 46.8.

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Deaths	109	110	219

Death Rate per thousand of the estimated population :—
Falmouth 12.9. England and Wales, 10.8.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year 7

Infant Mortality Rate :—Falmouth 26.4. England and Wales, 34.

Table Showing Birth and Death Rate Since 1936

Year	*Birth Rate.*	*Death Rate.*	*Infantile Death Rate.*
1936	12.8	14.4	46.2
1937	15.3	14.3	52.0
1938	12.3	13.6	59.5
1939	13.7	14.8	58.5
1940	13.1	13.4	49.8
1941	16.5	12.6	36.9
1942	16.2	13.8	41.7
1943	18.6	14.6	56.6
1944	20.4	13.9	53.3
1945	20.0	14.1	16.5
1946	20.4	13.5	33.6
1947	18.6	12.7	23.0
1948	15.6	12.9	26.4

Causes of Death, 1948

Disease	1947	1948
Typhoid Fever, etc.	—	—
Measles	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—
Influenza	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	6
Other Tuberculous diseases	—	2
Syphilitic diseases	3	3
Cancer	32	39
Diabetes	—	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	30	28
Heart Disease	63	83
Other circulatory diseases	6	4
Bronchitis	6	7
Pneumonia	11	5
Other respiratory diseases	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—
Diarrhoea, etc., under 2 years	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Other digestive diseases	3	6
Nephritis	7	13
Puerperal and Post-abort: sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—
Premature birth	5	2
Congenital malformation : Birth injuries, etc.	—	3
Suicide	3	2
Road Traffic accidents	1	—
Other violent causes	6	3
All other causes	18	8
Ac: Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
	—	—
Total	207	219
	—	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

Up to the appointed day, 5th July, 1948, the general provisions of the health service remained as in previous years. After that date the Welfare Centre became the

property and the responsibility of the Cornwall County Council. Your Medical Officer of Health ceased to have any connection with the Infant clinics and the Ante-natal clinics went out of existence. The other services continued to function more or less as before.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Age at Notification	*Scarlet Fever* M	*Scarlet Fever* F	*Whooping Cough* M	*Whooping Cough* F	*Measles* M	*Measles* F
0—1	—	—	2	1	2	6
1—3	—	—	2	3	13	23
3—5	—	—	2	6	25	30
5—10	2	5	4	4	46	58
10—15	—	1	—	—	1	2
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	2
25—45	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	2	6	11	14	87	121

Age at Notification	*Ac. Pneumonia.* M	*Ac. Pneumonia.* F	*Erysipelas* M	*Erysipelas* F
0—5	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	—
15—45	1	—	—	—
45—65	—	—	—	1
65+	—	—	—	1
Total	1	1	—	2

Ophthalmia Neonatorum M	*Ophthalmia Neonatorum* F
1	—

That there was not a single case of diphtheria during the year as opposed to 9 in 1947 is very satisfactory. The policy of encouraging parents to have their children immunised with A.P.T. was as vigorously pursued as it has been ever since it was first instituted in 1940. By the end of the year the total number of immunisations done was 4,107.

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				*Deaths*			
	Pulmonary		*Non-Pulmonary*		*Pulmonary*		*Non-Pulmonary*	
Age Periods	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1
45—55	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	6	1	—	5	1	1	1

The numbers are too small to be statistically significant, but it is a source of satisfaction that the new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year were only half the number notified in 1947.

I am, your obedient servant,

V. E. WHITMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Borough Sanitary Inspector

for the Year Ending December, 1948

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Falmouth.

13th July, 1949.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting to you my 22nd Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the Borough, I have been guided by Circular 3/49, issued by the Ministry of Health for this purpose.

The Department was responsible for the issuing of Licenees concerning the Maintenance and Repairs of premises in connection with the "Control of Civil Buildings" up to the end of May.

With regard to Salvage, I am pleased to report a considerable improvement in receipts from sale of Salvaged Materials, the increase being principally due to increased sales of Waste Paper.

In connection with Rodent Infestation, two Maintenance Treatments of the sewers were carried out, and householders have co-operated in notifying the presence of rats and mice, particularly since the introduction of a free service to Private Dwellings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to Mr. G. Cox, Water Engineer, for the following report :—

The Falmouth Water Undertaking is Municipally owned. The source of supply is from Gathering Grounds,

of gravel and peat sub-soil, into impounding and settling reservoirs.

The water is subjected to (sand) pressure filtration. The filtered water is chlorinated to maintain the required standard of bacterial purity and is treated with lime to correct its corrosive tendency.

Chemical and Bacteriological analyses are taken monthly of all water in supply, and of the raw water quarterly.

During 1948 the average daily consumption within the statutory area of supply was 1,186,409 gallons.

The number of Trade Supplies for the year equals 423, and the number of Domestic supplies equals 5,023.

During the year new water mains have been laid in the Swanpool Area.

The Water supply in the statutory area has been entirely satisfactory (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.

Sewerage

Sewage disposal is principally by sea outfalls, one at Middle Point and one discharging from a Septic Tank at Gyllyngvase.

There is also a small Plant, consisting of Settling Tanks, etc., with two Percolating Filters to deal with the sewage from the Swanvale, Penmere and Trescobeas Areas.

The Council have under consideration a New Scheme to replace the overburdened Swanvale Sewage Farm and to deal with the Dracaena Avenue and Ponsharden Areas and future development of Boslowick and Trescobeas Areas.

Drainage

During the year, 75 new drains were tested, first by means of Water Test, then by Smoke Test, and all finally approved. In addition, 308 yards of new 6 inch sewer at the Boslowick and Penwerris Housing Schemes were tested and approved.

Rivers and Streams

Action was taken to check pollution as found necessary, and samples of effluent from the Swanvale Sewage Works

were taken by the County Sanitary Officer and myself; and towards the end of the year there was a marked improvement.

Closet Accommodation

With the exception of a very small number of Pail Closets and Privy Middens in outside areas, all are on the Water carriage and connected to the Council's sewers.

We have, however, 138 premises connected to 115 Cesspits, where no sewers are available, these being emptied by an approved type of Cesspool Emptier.

TABLE No. 1

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE

	Inspections
Dwelling Houses	
Inspected for housing defects	255
Inspected after occurrence of Infectious Disease	16
Disinfected (Rooms)	168
Inspections of Water Closets	45
Inspections of Common Passages	60
Drainage	
Visits to Works in Progress	130
Water Tests applied to drains	53
Smoke Tests applied to drains	37
New drains approved after test	75
New drains disapproved	13
Old Drains inspected	33
New Intercepters fixed	26
New gullies fixed	168
Cowsheds and Dairies	
Cowsheds inspected	30
Dairies	26
Milk Purveyors' Vehicles	69
Samples obtained for Methylene Blue and Coliform Bacillus Tests	66
Bakehouses	
Number of Inspections	66
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	143

Miscellaneous Inspections

Cinemas and Music Halls	5
Public Conveniences	253
Drinking Fountains	26
Tips	10
Re Rat Destruction	2,052
Visits to Destructor	19
Visits to Council Houses	52
Visits to Swanvale Sewerage Farm	30
Visits to Catering Establishments	18
Visits to Fish and Chip Shops	17
Inspection of Premises re Sale of Ice Cream	23
Inspection of Premises re Points Scheme	11
District Inspections	10
Inspections with Medical Officer of Health	7
Interviews with Owners, etc.	27
Interviews with Chairman	7
Interviews with Applicants for Council Houses	29
Interviews and Inspections re Overcrowding	10
Interviews re Collection of Refuse	7
Interviews with Farmers and Milk Purveyors	8
Interviews with Owners of Farms	5
Interviews with Owners of Hotels	18
Interviews with Builders	20
Interviews re Shops Acts	157

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired	22
Spoutings repaired	8
Walls	24
Windows	11
Defective Wash Basins repaired or renewed	1
Sinks repaired or renewed	1
Houses provided with Sinks	1
Verminous Rooms Disinfected	40
Floors Relaid or Repaired	18
Doors repaired	1
Defective Ceilings repaired	6
Defective Flues and Fireplaces repaired	2
Defective Cooking Stoves repaired	7
Hot Water Installations provided	1

Water Closets, etc.

Defective Water Closets repaired	17
Defective Hopper Pans replaced by Wash-downs	5
Additional Water Closets provided	2
Cesspools emptied	806
Cesspools Abolished	—
Privy Middens Abolished	—
Pail Closets Abolished	—

Drainage

Houses completely re-drained	—
Drains repaired or reconstructed	8
Old Drains abolished	—
Sink Waste Pipes disconnected	—
Rain Water Pipes disconnected	—
Choked Drains cleansed, repaired or relaid	63
Choked Gullies cleansed	1
Choked Intercepters repaired	19
Sewers cleansed or repaired	7
Existing Drains connected to Main Sewer	—

Water Supply

Water Services repaired	2
Houses or W.C.s provided with adequate Water Supply	11
Flush Cisterns repaired	10
Water Fountains repaired	9

Miscellaneous

Offensive Accumulations removed	12
Statutory Notices issued	1
Preliminary Notices given	183
Miscellaneous Inspections	697
Total Inspections made	4,671

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	*Number on Register*	*Number of*		
		Inspections	*Written Notices*	*Occupiers prosecuted*
(*i*) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	36	53	—	—
(*ii*) Factories not included in (*i*) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	69	98	—	—
(*iii*) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	6	—	—
TOTAL	110	157	—	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(*a*) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	7	7	—	—	—

Eradication of Vermin

There were no cases of Bed Bug infestation, but 5 premises were treated for fleas.

Rodent Control

In connection with the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, 158 cases were dealt with.

The Block Control Method which was adopted last year has been completed.

The baits used for prebaiting were 2½ cwts. of Sausage Rusk and ¼ cwt. Bread Mash, and for poisoning, Arsenic and Zinc Phosphide were the chief agents.

Based on the actual "takes of poison," it is estimated that 1,774 rats were killed.

The work done during the year included the treatment of the Council's Sewers, which resulted in an estimated kill of 89, included in the above total.

Throughout the year Mr. Penhaligon continued work as Operator in a very satisfactory manner.

Co-operation has been maintained with the Ministry of Food Rodent Destruction Department and the Cornwall Agricultural Committee Pest Department.

Housing

Housing work was chiefly restricted to dealing with maintenance of property in as reasonable a condition as possible, in view of the shortage of materials and labour.

During the year the Local Authority built 57 houses, which brings the total of Council Houses to 784 and five houses were built privately.

Squatters' Camp

At the end of the year we had 41 families occupying 40 huts.

Sanitary Accommodation, Water Supply, Oil Cooking Stoves and Dust-Bins have been provided and frequent inspections are made to ensure that a reasonable standard of sanitation is maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are seventeen farms in the Borough with approximately 160 cows.

There is one Licensed producer and retailer of T.T. milk, twelve Licensed Producers and one Licensed Retailer.

Thirty cowshed inspections were made during the year.

Sixty-six samples of milk were taken for Methylene Blue and B. Coli tests, of which sixteen were repeat samples. The samples being designated as follows :—

T.T. Certified	4
T.T.	15
Pasteurised	6
Ungraded	41
	66

No samples have been taken for the examination as to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Distribution of milk was carried out by 27 purveyors, there being one distributor of Pasteurised milk.

Meat and Other Foods

All slaughtering is done outside the Borough, but 209 visits were made to Meat and other Food Shops, and Bakehouses, and small quantities of meat and other foodstuffs condemned, the total weight of foodstuff condemned during the year was 1 ton 6 cwts.

Adulteration, etc.

The County Council are responsible for the working of these Acts and Regulations, and I am indebted to Mr. H. E. Rundle, Senior Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the following report ;—

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Article	*No.*	*Genuine*	*Adulterated*	*Result of Proceedings*
Milk	38	38		
Marmalade	1	1		
Tea	1	1		
Coffee	3	3		
Semolina	1	1		
Cocoa	1	1		
Malt Vinegar	3	3		
Browning	1	1		
Pure Olive Oil	1	1		
Ice Cream	6	6		
Butter	5	5		
Jaffa Juice	1	1		
White Pepper	2	2		
Baking Powder	1	1		
Barlova	1	1		
Orange Squash	1	1		
Lime Juice Cordial	1	1		
Gin	1	1		
Whalemeat Savouries	1	—	1	No preservative allowed. Caution.
Sausages	2	1	1	28% deficient meat. Under investigation by Ministry of Food.
Total	72	70	2	

Ice Cream

Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is enforced in the Borough. With a view of securing uniformity in the interpretation of the legislation affecting the Ice Cream Trade, we are administering the provisional standard of grading based on the Methylene Blue Reduction Test which

was recommended by a Conference of Sanitary Inspectors, held at Truro.

During the year, 73 samples of Ice Cream were obtained, and submitted for examination, 26 of the samples were graded 1 ; 25 were graded 2 ; 19 were placed in grade 3 ; and 3 in grade 4.

Many of our Manufacturers and Retailers should be complimented on the improvement made in connection with the technique of production and handling. " Ice cream has ceased to be a luxury," and is now an important article of food ; it is no longer just a seasonal trade.

We are getting almost the full co-operation of both the wholesale and retail trade.

The eating of ice cream gives an enormous amount of pleasure to children and, for that matter, to a certain number of others not quite so young.

The laboratory test indicates when a sample shows danger.

Public Conveniences

There are 21 Public Conveniences in the Borough, which are cleaned daily, four of these have a Caretaker for 9 hours every day ; two are open in the season only.

253 visits have been made to the various conveniences and the revenue received for the year ending 31st March, 1949, was £1,218 4s. 4d.

Improvements were carried out to the Greenbank Conveniences, and the attention of the Council has been drawn to the inadequacy of the Webber Street and Market Strand Ladies' Conveniences.

Shops and Offices

The inspection of Shops and Offices as regards their sanitary accommodatiin was continued during the year and 130 inspections were made in connection with hours of closing and a number of contraventions were dealt with.

Young Persons' Act

Seven complaints were received, all of which were investigated, and in 3 cases it was found that the employers

were working the Young Persons more hours than was allowed under the act. After interviews with Employers, and in one case, Employees, no further action was necessary.

Camping Sites

There are no Licensed Camping Sites in the Borough, but one Individual Licence was granted.

Cinemas and Music Halls

These places of Public Amusement were inspected during the year, and gave little cause for complaint. The necessary reports were made to the Local Authority for the purposes of renewal of licences.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths or Pools.

Licensed Houses

These premises have been under supervision and 73 visits have been made with the object of securing more adequate and improving sanitary accommodation for both sexes. New W.C.s and other improvements have been carried out at six houses.

Public Cleansing

(1st April, 1948—31st March, 1949)

A weekly collection of Salvage was maintained along with a weekly collection of Refuse. Refuse is disposed of by means of incineration at the Electricity Works.

As will be seen by the following table there has been a considerable increase in the amount of Waste Paper, from 98 tons last year to 160 tons, but Food Waste has again decreased by 18 tons. Textiles, however, show an improvement.

Numerous appeals were again made to the public to increase the salvage yield, and I am pleased to say with some measure of success.

	1948	1947	1940 to 1948
	Tons	*Tons*	*Tons*
Waste Paper	160	98	1,369
Ferrous Metals	—	—	108
Non-Ferrous Metals	—	—	3
Flattened Tins	—	—	247
Textiles	2	1	34
Bones	$\frac{1}{4}$	—	$36\frac{3}{4}$
Food Waste	32	50	731
Bottles	—	—	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Jam Jars	—	—	11
Rubber	—	—	14
Total Tonnage	$194\frac{1}{4}$	149	$2,561\frac{1}{4}$
Value	£1,166	£851	£10,044

The staff of the Cleansing Department consists of 12 males whole-time and 4 males part-time.

During the year the Council placed orders for the following new vehicles :—

10 cub. yard	Commer Refuse Lorry.
10 cub. yard	Karrier Refuse Lorry.
750 gallon	Bedford Cesspool Emptier.

The new Cesspool Emptier commenced work on the 1st January, 1949, and the Commer on the 11th March.

An early delivery of the Karrier is anticipated.

The number of loads of Refuse taken to the Destructor is as follows :—

Dodge 1	1164
Dodge 2	1278
Commer	50
Morris	355
Hired Lorry	136
Estimated tonnage	5258

Taking all our services into consideration :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The total cost of Collection is				4846	5	9
Receipts :—						
Sale of Salvaged Materials	1166	7	2			
Leaving a net cost of Collection of				3679	18	7
Cost of Disposal, Burning of Refuse (as compared with £251 14s. 7d. in 1939)				196	12	11
Receipts :—						
For Collection of Refuse	50	0	0			
Leaving the net cost of Burning (as compared with £201 14s. 7d. in 1939) —				146	12	11
Cost of Removing Clinker from Destructor				507	16	6
Receipts	100	0	0			
Leaving net cost of Removing Clinker				407	16	6

Emptying of Cesspools

	£	s.	d.
The Total Cost of these Services amounts to	1174	0	9
Receipts for Hire of Cesspool Emptier	13	2	2
Leaving a Net Cost of	1160	18	7

In conclusion, I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the support received during the year from the Health and other Committees, my best thanks to the staff for their loyalty, zeal and devotion, and for the able and energetic manner in which they have, at all times, discharged their many and onerous duties, often under very trying conditions.

I am, your obedient servant,

A. HEY,

Sanitary Inspector.